Asked whether there was any necessity for such a thing and whether the transactions could be made public, the member replied that, whether private or public, the matter should be known to all and be made available so as to give no room for forgery or cheating.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao said *per contra* that, if any one wanted information about the lands, he might approach the Sub-Registrar.

Reply of Government.—Will be considered.

SUBJECT NO. 72.

Reorganization of the Police Department.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao, Chikmagalur taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The Police department may be thoroughly reorganized and made a technical department. Officers from other departments, such as Revenue, Excise, etc., may not be drafted to the Police department.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT NO. 73.

Visitors to police lock-ups.

Mr. S. Sitaramaiya, Shimoga Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—Respectable persons may be authorised to pay surprise visits to police lock-ups. This will materially reduce cases of ill-treatment of persons confined therein.

Mr. Krishnamurti stated that the police were generally charged with ill-treatment of prisoners, and if visitors were allowed, they would enquire and record their opinion in the register kept for the purpose. It is in the interests of the police that such a thing should be done. Respectable non-official gentlemen may be selected by the Deputy Commissioners concerned.

Mr. Santanam Iyengar added that under-trial prisoners often complained of ill-treatment before Magistrates, but no notice was usually taken except adding a foot-note if injuries were noticed, and that if there was a visitors' book, the fact that such injuries had been noticed would be evidence.

Reply of Government.—We shall try.

SUBJECT NO. 74.

Dafadars to be empowered to investigate cases of criminal complaint.

Messrs. Hutchviregowda, Gubbi taluk; Ramiah and Hanumiah Setti, Malvalli taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Formerly the police dafadars in charge of sub-stations were submitting first information reports in respect of cases reported in their jurisdiction and taking the initiative for investigation. This practice has been discontinued. Under the present procedure the station dafadar has to merely give information of the occurrence to the officer in charge of the range who submits the first information report. At times there will be a delay of at least two or three days in the issue of the first information report and in the appearance of the Range Officer at the scene of the occurrence, as he is in charge of three or four stations. The delay thus caused will give time to the accused to get up his own defence and thus the evidence for the prosecution will not be readily collected and there is every probability of the case

going undetected. To avoid this the former procedure may be adopted.

Per contra.

Mr. S. R. Balakrishna Rao, Shimoga Municipality. As dafadars are not generally well educated, it is inexpedient to allow them to investigate cases. In the Shimoga District where the system has been in force for some time, no inconvenience is felt.

Mr. C. Vasudeva Rao of Chikmagalur endorsed the above opinion. Mr. Ramanujiengar of Kadaba requested that the number of investigating centres might be increased.

Reply of Government.—The system cannot be altered as it has been working satisfactorily. If, in any place, there is undue delay in the investigation of cases owing to paucity of Jamadars, the matter may be brought to the notice of the Inspector-General of Police. Perhaps it will be possible to invest individual dafadars with powers to investigate.

SUBJECT NO. 75.

Police outposts.

Mr. Hutchviregowda, Gubbi taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Under the existing rules, every station has one or two outposts attached to it, and to each outpost 50 to 100 villages are attached and there they must be impressed with a seal by the patel and carried with a permit to be given by him.

(2) Mr. K. Shama Iyengar, Channagiri taluk.

(2) The practice of stealing cattle on account of inducements offered by Labbes and other dealers in hides is on the increase every day. Certain proposals were sent up to Government on the subject and these, it is understood, were referred to the District Magistrates for necessary action. But nothing seems to have been done to find out even a single case of cattle-stealing till now and punish the offenders. If this practice goes on unchecked, it is sure to tell on the well-being of the agricultural classes. It is therefore necessary that legislation should be directed to prevent this evil practice.

Mr. A. Ramanna stated that the dealers in hides should be required to keep a register and that hides should not be taken without a permit from the patel or the shanbhog of the village, who must ascertain and certify whether the animal died of natural causes.

Reply of Government.—The question is beset with practical difficulties. The system of marking the hides of deceased animals was tried in the Agency tracts of Vizagapatam and given up as the headman appointed was found to often collude with the offenders. If definite suggestions are made, the matter will be considered.